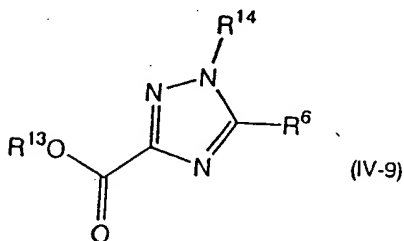


Amendments to the Claims

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula (IV-9):

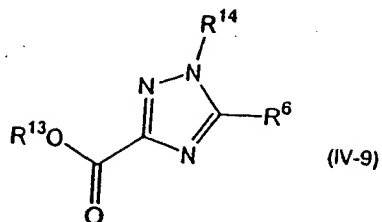


wherein R⁶ is hydrogen or alkyl; R¹³ is alkyl, a group of the formula: -R⁷ wherein R⁷ is trityl, optionally substituted sulfamoyl or alkoxymethyl, a group of the formula: C(OR⁸)R⁹-CHR¹⁰R¹¹ wherein R⁸ is alkyl; R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ each is independently hydrogen or alkyl; or R⁸ and R¹⁰ may be taken together to form alkylene, or hydroxymethyl; and R¹⁴ is a group of the formula: -R⁷ wherein R⁷ is as defined above, a group of the formula: -C(OR⁸)R⁹-CHR¹⁰R¹¹ wherein R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are defined above, or hydroxymethyl, provided that a compound wherein R⁶ is hydrogen; R¹³ is methyl; and R¹⁴ is trityl, a compound wherein R⁶ is hydrogen; R¹³ is methyl; and R¹⁴ is tetrahydropyran-2-yl, ~~a compound wherein R⁶ is methyl; R¹³ is ethyl; and R¹⁴ is hydroxymethyl,~~ and a compound wherein R⁶ is hydrogen; R¹³ is ethyl; and R¹⁴ is trityl are excluded.

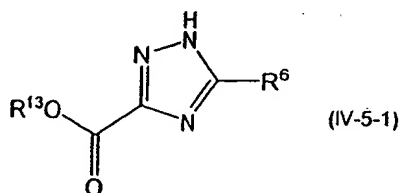
21. (Original) The compound according to claim 20 wherein R⁶ is hydrogen; R¹³ is methyl or ethyl; R¹⁴ is tetrahydropyran-2-yl, hydroxymethyl, methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, N,N-dimethylsulfamoyl, (1-methoxy-1-methyl)ethyl, (1-ethoxy)ethyl, (1-ethoxy-1-methyl)ethyl, (1-n-propoxy)ethyl, (1-n-butoxy)ethyl or (1-isobutoxy)ethyl.

22-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula (IV-9):

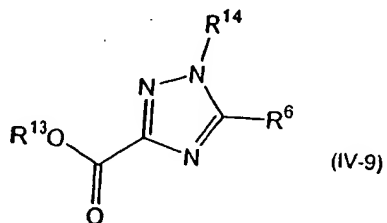


wherein R⁶, R¹³ and R¹⁴ are as defined in claim 20, provided that a compound wherein R⁶ is hydrogen; R¹³ is methyl; and R¹⁴ is trityl, a compound wherein R⁶ is hydrogen; R¹³ is methyl; and R¹⁴ is tetrahydropyran-2-yl, a compound wherein R⁶ is methyl; R¹³ is ethyl; and R¹⁴ is hydroxymethyl, and a compound wherein R⁶ is hydrogen; R¹³ is ethyl; and R¹⁴ is trityl are excluded, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (IV-5-1):

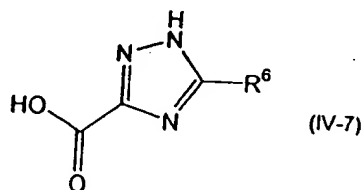


wherein R⁶ and R¹³ are as defined in claim 20, with a compound of the formula: R⁷X wherein R⁷ is as defined in claim 20; and X is halogen, a compound of the formula: (R⁸O)R⁹C=CR¹⁰R¹¹ wherein R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are as defined in claim 20, or formaldehyde.

51. (Currently amended) A process of the preparation of a compound of the formula (IV-9):



wherein R^6 , R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined in claim 20, provided that a compound wherein R^6 is hydrogen; R^{13} is methyl; and R^{14} is trityl, a compound wherein R^6 is hydrogen; R^{13} is methyl; and R^{14} is tetrahydropyran-2-yl, ~~a compound wherein R^6 is methyl; R^{13} is ethyl; and R^{14} is hydroxymethyl~~, and a compound wherein R^6 is hydrogen; R^{13} is ethyl; and R^{14} is trityl are excluded, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (IV-7):



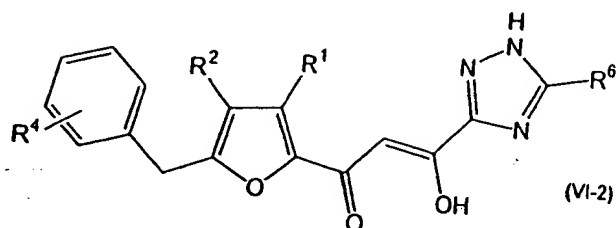
wherein R^6 is as defined in claim 20, with a compound of the formula: R^7X wherein R^7 is as defined in claim 20; and X is halogen, a compound of the formula: $(R^8O)R^9C=CR^{10}R^{11}$ wherein R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} are as defined in claim 20, or formaldehyde.

52. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 50 or 51 which comprises reacting with a compound of the formula: R^7X wherein R^7 is trityl.

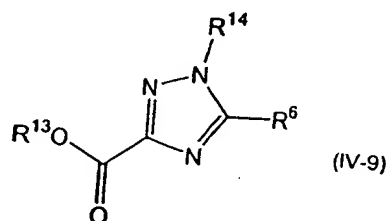
53. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 50 or 51 which comprises reacting with a compound of the formula: $(R^8O)R^9C=CR^{10}R^{11}$ wherein R^8 and R^{10} are taken together to form trimethylene; and R^9 and R^{11} each is hydrogen.

54. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 50 or 51 which comprises reacting with a compound of the formula: $(R^8O)R^9C=CR^{10}R^{11}$ wherein R^8 and R^9 each is methyl; and R^{10} and R^{11} each is hydrogen.

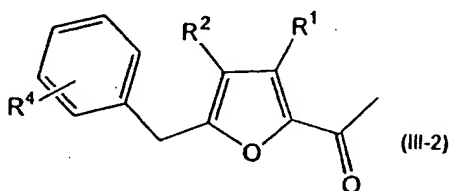
55. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula (VI-2):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^4 each is independently hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy or halogen; and R^6 is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl or optionally substituted aryl, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (IV-9):



wherein R^6 , R^{13} and R^{14} are as defined in claim 20, provided that a compound wherein R^6 is hydrogen; R^{13} is methyl; and R^{14} is trityl, a compound wherein R^6 is hydrogen; R^{13} is methyl; and R^{14} is tetrahydropyran-2-yl, ~~a compound wherein R^6 is methyl; R^{13} is ethyl; and R^{14} is hydroxymethyl~~, and a compound wherein R^6 is hydrogen; R^{13} is ethyl; and R^{14} is trityl are excluded, with a compound of the formula (III-2):



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are as defined above, and deprotecting R^{14} .

56. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 55 wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^6 each is hydrogen; and R^4 is halogen.